

# Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

be warm and safe this winter!

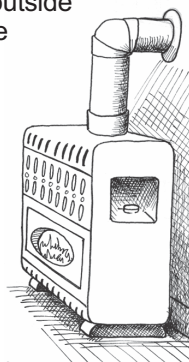
- >> Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- >> Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- >> Never use your oven to heat your home.
- >> Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- >> Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- >> Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- >> Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- >> Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- >> Test smoke alarms monthly.



## Heating Equipment Smarts

**Install** wood burning stoves following manufacturer’s instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

**Install** and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



## FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**

NFPA Public Education Division 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

A Message From The  
Nassau County Fire Marshal’s Office  
Edward Mangano, County Executive  
Scott D. Tusa, Chief Fire Marshal